

The Fortnightly Rant

Every Day, In Every Way

Like many Americans, we have been struggling. Authoritarian gibberish has an anesthetizing effect on some, but we are not among them. The pandemic has forced us to eschew newsprint. That deprivation, we have found, is less like kicking a drug habit than it is like having a limb amputated—or all of them.

We will go on, of course. At our age—having recently begun our 265th year—we can imagine no other course. For the record, though, these conditions are intolerable; reader, forgive us, please, for kicking against our stall.

Perhaps we're being predictable, but we lay the responsibility for this predicament on someone we'll call, for variety's sake, The Usual Suspect. At last count more than 210,000 Americans have been killed by the plague he failed to stop. His own White House has more cases now than the nation of Vietnam. With such a record it seems impossible to imagine that things could get any worse—and therein lies the trap.

Not long ago we published a photo of a banner depicting the Suspect as Captain America—a so-called superhero. So he appears to the glibberish junkies. It pains us to say it, but he does fit the description in one limited way: he has a power we've never seen elsewhere.

Every day, he makes things worse—and not just any old worse, but a far worse worse than any worse you could imagine on your own.

It's a pattern that, once noticed, is impossible not to see: every day... every day, in every way....

Wait—why does that sound so familiar to us...?

Because, Dear Reader, years ago, during our lengthy apprenticeship, we were exposed to the mantra of Dr. Émile Coué.

[Sets Wayback Machine to 1923....]

Coué Tells Boston How to Get Better and Better

Two Great Audiences Clench and Unclench Fists at Genial Frenchman's Command to Show Dominance of the Imagination

The advice, as a whole, was such as any good physician would give a patient... [Coué] called himself 'a simple, ordinary man,' but hundreds in those two big audiences... regarded him—in spite of his protestations—as something very much out of the ordinary... many had traveled far distances to see and hear him—sufferers many of them—and these people rather expected M. Coué to perform miracles.

Coué called Americans 'very imaginative,' saying they had 'a Celtic quality' in that regard.

— Boston Daily Globe

January 31, 1923

If you are suffering from any severe pain, such as a toothache or headache, sit down, close your eyes and assure yourself calmly that you are going to get rid of it. Now gently stroke with your hand the affected part and repeat at the same time as fast as you can, producing a continuous stream of sound, the words, 'It's going, going, going... gone!'

— Dr. Émile Coué, quoted in the September 17, 1922 edition of the *Boston Sunday Globe*, Editorial and News Feature Section, page one.

—~—~—

Little question for today:

Who was Dr. Émile Coué?

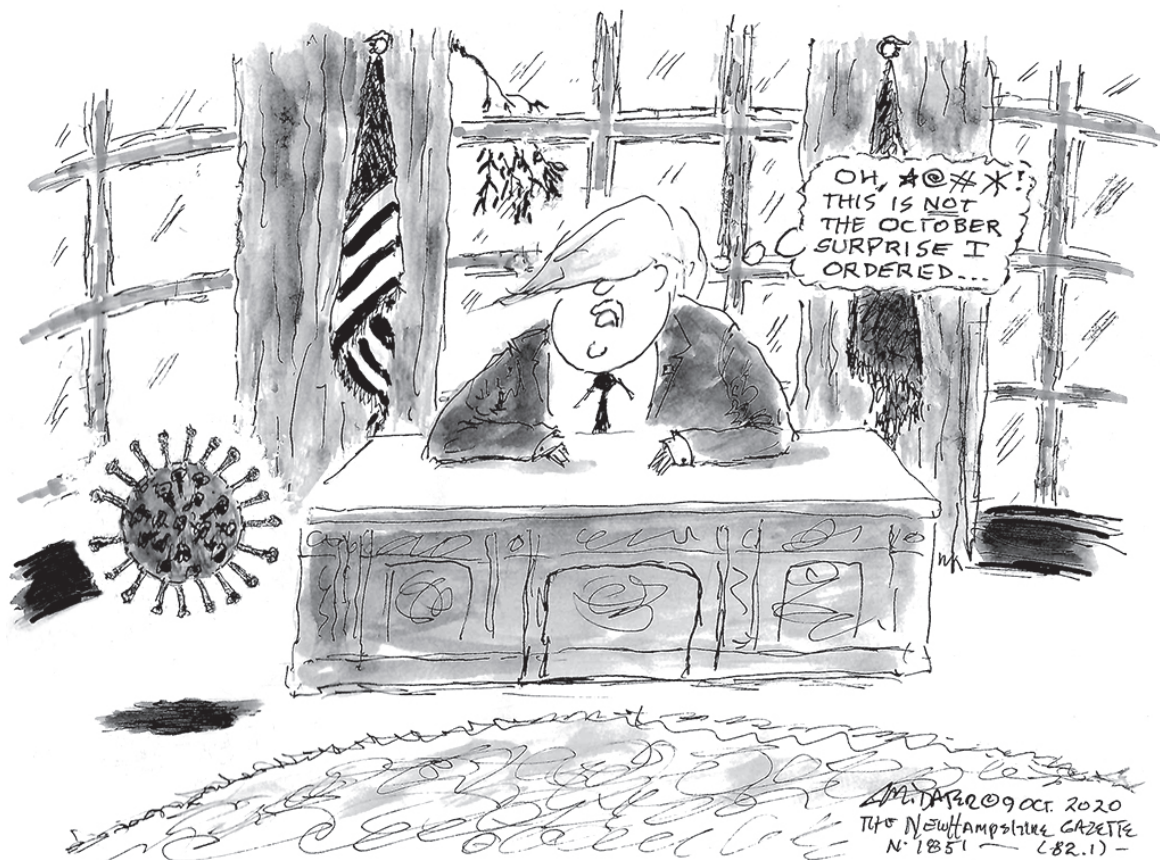
— Filler item

Boston Globe, June 15, 1925

—~—~—

Confirming our recollections of Dr. Coué, we learned that the linkage between him and our Usual Suspect transcended a mere shared belief in...let's be kind and call it "woo-woo."

According to our old friend *Wikipedia*, "Although Coué's teachings



were, during his lifetime, more popular in Europe than in the United States, many Americans who adopted his ideas and methods, such as Maxwell Maltz, Napoleon Hill, **Norman Vincent Peale**, Robert H. Schuller, and W. Clement Stone, became famous in their own right by spreading his words."

Individual 1—let's call him what Mueller did, for the nonce—has often cited Peale as his "family pastor"—as if that were something of which to be proud. To the best of our knowledge, though, he has never admitted that Peale learned his grift from Coué, the O.G., the Master. That's not surprising, though; neither has he acknowledged that the family fortune was founded by a draft-dodging whoremonger, his grandfather Frederick.

Gwenda Blair was on to this connection in October of 2015. A teacher of journalism at Columbia, and the author of *The Trumps: Three Generations of Builders and a Presi-*

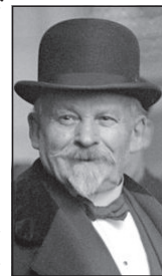
dential Candidate, got definitive for an article in *Politico*: "When Coué's follower Dr. Norman Vincent Peale published *The Power Of Positive Thinking* in October 1952, Trump's parents, Fred and Mary, felt an immediate affinity for Peale's teachings. On Sundays, they drove into Manhattan to worship at Marble Collegiate Church where Peale was the head pastor. Donald and both his sisters were married there, and funeral services for both Fred and Mary took place in the main sanctuary.

"I still remember [Peale's] sermons," Trump told the Iowa Family Leadership Summit in July. "You could listen to him all day long. And when you left the church, you were disappointed it was over. He was the greatest guy."

BLOTUS—we trust you know to whom we refer—has now, finally, come down with a case of the disease which he has bestowed upon millions of others. Unlike them, he

has access to what may be the best socialized medicine on Earth.

Or might be, if he didn't meddle. Patient Zero of the White House Cluster[cough] has apparently been channeling a certain stout, dapper, bowlered and moustachioed gent who was not, for the record, a real doctor after all.



Full of steroids and a miracle cure from a company in which he holds stock, the Man With His Finger On the World's Largest Nuclear Arsenal returned to the World's Most Expensive Public Housing Unit a couple of days ago. That event was filmed for campaign purposes. The result appears to be an homage to Leni Reifenshtahl's *Triumph of the Will*. He just made an hour-long call to CNN. We're afraid to listen. Election day is three and a half weeks away. Let's hope we make it.

The Alleged News®

A Few Random Items of Potential Interest

We can't cite any specific authorities on this matter—we have little to go on other than our own observations—but we've been getting the impression lately that even people who are normally level-headed have been getting cranky lately. We can't say for sure why, but we have our suspicions.

It may have something to do with the 210,000 people who've died so far from the dreadfully mishandled global pandemic. Or, it may be a reaction to the economy nearly dying, due to the failed attempt to stop the virus.

On the other hand it could be some kind of subconscious reaction to the mass-extinction crisis. That one's a little harder to credit, though, since hardly anyone is paying attention to it other than the odd scientist or two, quietly weeping in the cor-

ner of a closed-down lab. [*Yeah, we know—they're all odd. Yuck, yuck. Sit down and behave, will you? — The Ed.*]

One strange thing about what some are calling the 6th Great Extinction—well, out of many, we suppose—is that, although a large percentage of the dying species are insects, one of the more disturbing stories we've heard is about a new species showing up here in the U.S. "Murder hornets." Who'd a thunk it?

Could be the hurricanes, we suppose. What's hitting Louisiana today? Delta, or something. The meteorologists have used up all 26 of the available names. We'd get on the horn and 'splain to them that consumers get angry when they have to settle for generics. They haven't had a day off since hurricane season started though, so....

As we noted in the Rant, we've been feeling just a bit ragged ourselves lately—not physically, we're at 98.6°, and even more robust that the President himself, who is a noted athlete. We're just slightly flummoxed by the sheer volume of news.

Actually, we could probably handle that. It's really the news-like... stuff that's been gumming up the works. Ever since, oh, say, about June 14, 2015, the sheer volume of...stuff, let's call it stuff, has been making our work exponentially more difficult.

In an earlier time we could sum up this problem with a folksy metaphor. Imagine spending the first few hours of every work day using a shovel to remove a layer of fragrant equine effluent from atop your desk. That's what it's like when you have to screen out all the bogosity coming from the Ruling Junta. Since

the advent of the horseless carriage, though, half our audience will have no idea what we're talking about.

Readers deserve to have the news presented to them in a manner that makes some kind of sense. When the news makes no sense, that becomes somewhat problematical. Rather than throw up our hands, and then possibly...oh, never mind.

Without further ado, or don't, or might, here, in no particular order, are a few things that we think may have happened.

—~—~—

Department of Auguries and Signs

During the recent Vice Presidential Debate, incumbent Mike Pence took time out from ignoring moderator Susan Page and talking over Senator Kamala Harris to serve as a landing pad for a house fly. Pence's noggin, with its white hair-helmet,

turns out to be a perfect background for showing off the common pest, *Musca domestica*.

Judging from the post-debate reaction, the audience was relieved to have something to think about other than the Vice President's rudeness. Unsurprisingly, given Pence's unctuous religiosity, the incident engendered many ecclesiastical interpretations.

An unofficial correspondent in the U.K. said, "After all, according to the Hebrew Bible, 'Beelzebub,' in Hebrew, means, literally, 'Lord of the Flies,' which is another name for the 'Devil,' 'Satan,' or 'Lucifer,' and is also the title of William Golding's novel, by that name. How appropriate, therefore, that a fly should

The Alleged News®
from page one

choose to settle on Pence's head, as it would on a dung-heap: the Devil knows his own!"

To balance out this view from an obvious heathen, we turn to Hank Kunneman, of Lord of Hosts Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Speaking on evangelist Gene Bailey's program "Flash Point," Kunneman went right to the top for an answer.

"I said, 'God, what's up with the fly landing on the Vice President's head? Why didn't it land and buzz right on the nose of the sneering [Kinneman laughs at his own witticism.], snickering Kamala Harris?'"

The camera showed two gray-haired white men in suits, smiling and nodding as Kunneman relayed the Word of God.

"Because Ecclesiastes 10 says that the flies obviously go after the oil, and it talks about the dead fly that landed in the holy, precious anointed oil, and there was an anointing. Vice President Pence looked Presidential, and I'm telling you, it was a prophetic sight."

Perhaps someone should warn the President's medical team that a Higher Power may be contemplating a personnel change.

Right Wing Terrorists Plotted to Murder Democratic Governor

Earlier this year the President tweeted—apropos of what, no one knew at the time—"Liberate Michigan." It now appears that two small bands of Second Amendment enthusiasts knew exactly what he was talking about. Charges were announced against 13 men yesterday for plotting to kidnap and possibly murder Governor Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, as part of a grander coup plot to take over the state.

In his inimitable fashion, the President tweeted in response to the news that Whitmer is a terrible governor, who should thank him, the President, because "My Justice Department and Federal Law Enforcement" saved her.

Constitution 2.0?

Rep. Nancy Pelosi [D-Calif.], Speaker of the House, spoke Friday about creating a commission to assess the President's ability to lead the country, specifically citing provisions in the 25th Amendment allowing for the removal of an unfit Chief Executive.

Her remarks came the day after the President—who has been taking the powerful steroid dexamethasone, which he says is not a powerful steroid—made a series of telephone



Four stately orange cones—that being the color of the moment, we understand—flank the entrances of the Rockingham condominiums, lending a classic touch of symbolic majesty to the grand old pile.

calls to Fox News. He complained that Attorney General Bill Barr had not indicted Joe Biden, his opponent in the upcoming election, or President Obama, calling that a "sad, sad situation." He also called Kamala Harris a "monster" and "a communist."

Despite this steaming mountain of fresh evidence that the President is deranged, Pelosi told reporters, according to ABC News, "This is not about President Donald Trump—he will face the judgment of the voters."

Pelosi, some say, has legendary political skills. We must be rubes.

A Second Trump Term Would Be 'Game Over' for the Climate, Says Top Scientist

By Mark Hertsgaard

[This story originally appeared in The Guardian October 2, 2020, and is republished here as part of Covering Climate Now, a global journalism collaboration strengthening coverage of the climate story.]

Michael Mann, one of the most eminent climate scientists in the world, believes averting climate catastrophe on a global scale would be

"essentially impossible" if Donald Trump is re-elected.

A professor at Penn State University, Mann, 54, has published hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers, testified numerous times before Congress and appeared frequently in the news media. He is also active on Twitter, where earlier this year he declared: "A second Trump term is game over for the climate—really!", a statement he reaffirmed in an interview with *The Guardian* and *Covering Climate Now*.

"If we are going to avert ever more catastrophic climate change impacts, we need to limit warming below a degree and a half Celsius, a little less than three degrees Fahrenheit," Mann said. "Another four years of what we've seen under Trump, which is to outsource environmental and energy policy to the polluters and dismantle protections put in place by the previous administration... would make that essentially impossible."

None of Mann's 200-plus scientific papers is more famous than the so-called "hockey stick study," which *Nature* published on Earth Day of

1998. With two co-authors, Mann demonstrated that global temperature had been trending downward for the previous one thousand years. Graphed, this line was the long handle of the hockey stick, which surged abruptly upwards in about 1950—represented by the blade of the stick—to make the 1990s the warmest decade in "at least the last millennium."

In 1999, Mann became an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, where he was targeted by the climate denier crowd, an experience detailed in his 2012 book *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*. He received death threats, he says, and had emails stolen. Virginia's former attorney general Ken Cuccinelli, a hard-right Republican, subpoenaed documents related to Mann's research funding in an effort to prove fraud. A *Washington Post* editorial blasted Cuccinelli for "mis[using] state funds in his own personal war against climate science." In 2014, affirming a lower court's decision, the supreme court of Virginia ruled against Cuccinelli, who now serves as a top official in

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— Joe Keefe

Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

Mann denies that it's a partisan statement to say that four more years of Trump would mean "game over" for the climate.

"It is a political statement, because it speaks to the need to enact policies to deal with climate change," he says. "But it isn't partisan to say that we should act on this crisis."

It's also a scientific statement, Mann adds. Two years ago this month, scientists with the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published a landmark study, "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees," which found that humanity had to cut heat-trapping emissions roughly by half by 2030 to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown. Headlines warned we had "12 years to save the planet." Those 12 years are now 10.

Except more than two years have been lost, because in that time, the Trump administration has prevented the world's biggest economy from making "the dramatic reductions that were necessary to keep us on that path" of halving emissions by 2030, Mann says. "So now the incline is steeper. It's no longer five percent [reductions] a year for the next 10 years. It's more like seven and a half percent." (As a comparison, seven percent is how

much global carbon emissions are projected to fall in 2020 due to the Covid-19 economic lockdowns that shrank driving, flying and other carbon-intensive activities.)

The numbers get unrealistically challenging if Trump gains another four years as president.

"Four more years of relative inaction, of flat emissions, means that four years from now that number might be closer to 15 percent [emissions reductions] a year," Mann says. "And that may be, although not physically impossible, societally impossible. The rate at which we shift away from a fossil-fuel-driven infrastructure, it just may not be economically possible or socially viable to do it that [fast]."

"Our destiny is determined by our behavior"

Fortunately, there is encouraging news about climate science as well. It was long thought that Earth's climate system carried a substantial lag effect, mainly because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere, trapping heat, for many decades after being emitted. Even if all CO2 emissions were halted overnight, global temperatures would keep rising and heat waves, droughts, storms and other impacts would keep intensifying "for about 25 to 30 years," Sir David King, the former chief science advisor to the British gov-



ernment, said in 2006.

Mann says research over the last decade has overturned this interpretation.

**Good News:
Shorter Lag Times**

Using new, more elaborate computer models equipped with an interactive carbon cycle, "what we now understand is that if you stop emitting carbon right now...the oceans start to take up carbon more rapidly," Mann says. Such ocean storage of CO2 "mostly" offsets the warming effect of the CO2 that still remains in the atmosphere. Thus, the actual lag between halting CO2 emissions and halting temperature rise is not 25 to 30 years, he explains, but "more like three to five years."

This is "a dramatic change in our understanding" of the climate system that gives humans "more agency," says Mann. Rather than being locked into decades of inexorably rising temperatures, humans can

turn down the heat almost immediately by slashing emissions promptly. "Our destiny is determined by our behavior," says Mann, a fact he finds "empowering."

This reprieve will not necessarily spare polar ice sheets or evade tipping points that cannot be recrossed, the scientist cautions, and earth is already experiencing "much more extreme weather...than we expected 10 years ago." Greenland and Arctic ice is already melting after the current temperature rise of 1° C, or 2.7° F, above preindustrial levels, and it will continue melting even without further warming. The resulting possibility of "massive sea level rise" is one example of why Mann says that humanity is "walking out on to a minefield" of tipping points: "The more we warm the planet, the more of those unwelcome surprises we might encounter."

In the face of this urgency, Mann broadly supports implementing a

Green New Deal. This he defines as a vast government effort that deploys both regulations—for example, no more coal plants—and market mechanisms like carbon pricing to transition away from fossil fuels as rapidly as possible. In the coming weeks, he adds, there is no more important way for U.S. citizens to exercise agency than to vote—for candidates who support such a transition, such as Joe Biden, and against Donald Trump and other Republicans who obstruct it.

"The future of this planet is now in the hands of American citizens," he says. "It's up to us. The way we end this national and global nightmare is by coming out and voting for optimism over pessimism, for hope and justice and progress over fear and malice and superstition. This is a Tolkienesque battle between good and evil, and Sauron needs to be defeated on election day here in the United States."



The challenges to our beloved local institutions are many, and great. Fortunately, somehow, Caffè Kilim is still with us. "Goats, please, medium."

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"The President is a superspreader who thinks he's immune and doesn't care how many he kills—as long as the camera gets his good side."

—Joe Lockhart (1959-)
former press secretary for President Bill Clinton

"Show me someone without an ego, and I'll show you a loser."

— Donald J. Trump

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—Ruth Bader Ginsburg
(1933-2020)

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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This Is Far Worse Than Partisan Divide
To the Editor:

Hyper partisanship, national polarization, party politics bleeding into areas it does not belong, and a dysfunctional Congress are no longer the biggest threats to our democracy. The cult-like self-identification of Trumpism is beyond political division and is pulling our nation into fascism.

Fascism has always been veiled in patriotism, powered by insecurities, and prioritized blind loyalty. The question is, will Americans step up to fight this common threat, or will we be complacent, consumed by apathy, and hope that someone else will save the day?

There is now common cause, for Conservative, Liberal, Moderate and others, to jointly shut the door on Trumpism. Conservatives can still vote for Republicans, Liberals for Democrats and Moderates can continue to not have acceptable options, but we all must oppose Trumpism.

To put our democracy back on the tracks, Americans need to do something our nation has not done in a long time: we need to talk. We need to bring back verbal dialog between individuals. It is only through true discussion and debate that we realize if we are seeing multiple perspectives or just regurgitating propaganda. Online chats, emails, Facebook, and any one-to-many communication may be easy, but they are the wrong tool for our current crisis.

If you know anyone in a swing state, pick up the phone and call them. Send a text and ask for a time to speak. Have colleagues in those states? Invite them to a video conference lunch or coffee break where you can talk about the upcoming election. Too many people are surrounded by a homogenous mindset and may not have anyone they feel safe speaking with.

It is time for all of us to be active patriots and choose to invest our time in having verbal conversations. Start with your personal and professional network and then look to do more. If you have vacation time that will not carry over, use a few days in October to talk with others about our collective

responsibility to protect democracy and end partisan self-identification (which enables fascism).

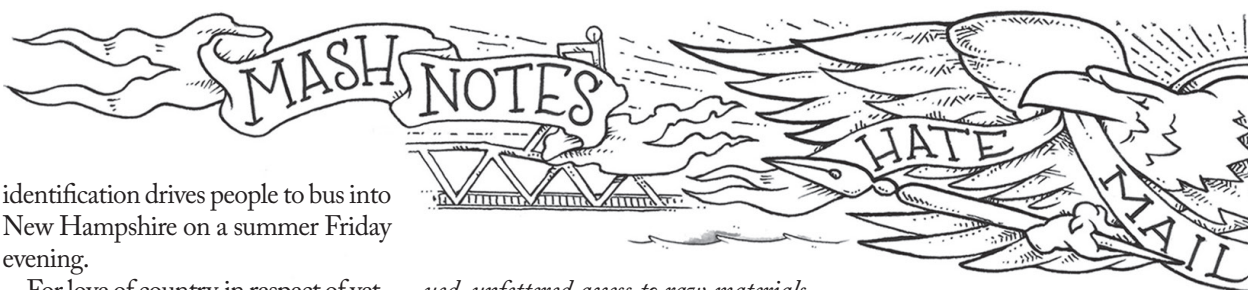
Even if you disagree with someone, ask them to explain their opinions. If they are ignoring inconvenient facts, just ask them to explain their points so you can understand what is behind their thinking. There are topics, such as abortion or capital punishment, that we need to agree to disagree for now, as we cannot come to common ground solutions until we are better at listening to each other and ignoring biased media.

I suppress the urge to scream at Trump flag wavers because it is not effective. For those who have already wrapped themselves in fascist garb, they must take the first courageous step out of the fascist current. We help by listening and talking respectfully from the shore, not pulling or pushing.

Start with acknowledging that Trump has done some positive things. Take Covid-19 as an example, and how travel between China and other hot spots was prohibited. However, there were hundreds of possible actions. Assume Trump had 20 positive Covid-19 actions, he also had at least 20 negative Covid-19 actions and maybe another 60 things that should have been done. So that is 20 good and 80 misses, which is much worse than a F- and explains why with four percent of global population we have around 23 percent of global cases and 21 percent of deaths globally.

During the Republican National Convention, people cloaked in Trumpism may have believed those who said Trump had fame and money and was only serving as President for love of country. Unfortunately, for a monstrous narcissist with a colossal ego, the Presidency had to be the next meal, and desert is establishing a family dynasty.

At the Manchester, N.H. Trump rally, I was watching bus after chartered bus unload people sans masks, wondering where they were coming from. I can't fathom from where, in very small New Hampshire, a resident would bother to take a chartered bus for around an hour ride? Polarized



identification drives people to bus into New Hampshire on a summer Friday evening.

For love of country, in respect of veterans, for the chance to heal and work jointly to solve our very big problems, get out there and end Trumpism. Let people know they don't have to vote Democratic, just no voting for Trump. Also, refrain from voting for all those who endorse Trump, since we desperately need political leaders and problem solvers, not followers.

Steven Borne

Rye, N.H.

Steven:

Pardon us for pre-judging, but your reputation for trying to reconcile our polarized body politic precedes you.

Whatever success you might achieve would be a great public service.

We fear, though, that under the circumstances you're rowing against the Piscataqua while towing a barge.

"[P]artisan self-identification (which enables fascism)"? That sounds like both-sides-ism. Yes, Trumpism enables fascism. Hell, it is fascism. How, though, does identifying as, say, a member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (which is a real thing) make one a proto-fascist?

Also, you seem to be assuming that it's possible to have a rational discussion with a person in the full throes of Trumpism. Would that it were so, but we believe the odds are remotely small. As we used to say before gaslights came in, "the game's not worth the candle."

You recommend "ignoring partisan media." Is it your plan to wait until capitalism is dethroned, and the spewing of propaganda no longer profits Clan Murdoch? If Trumpism is to be defeated—and, we fear, not even his well-deserved incarceration will be sufficient to accomplish that—we must confront the problem of right wing propaganda.

Right wing propaganda promotes authoritarianism, because that's what's good for capitalism. Capitalism wants contin-

ued, unfettered access to raw materials, cheap labor, and unregulated markets—and it will kill you for them. It's doing so right now.

Crediting Trump with anything related to this pandemic is going too far. In the example you cite, his most likely motive was animosity towards China as a nation, and prejudice against the Chinese people as a manifestation of his belief—does the man not have access to mirrors?—that white people are superior.

The Editor

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Don Ewing Gets De-Platformed

To the Editor:

[Note: 398 words deleted. — The Ed.]

Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Pardon us, but we were forced to delete 93 percent of your letter. We will, however, quote your first two sentences, in order to explain why.

"To most of us, all lives, including all black [sic] lives, matter. However, the Black Lives Matter movement only cares about the black [sic] lives (usually black [sic] deaths) that it can use for political advantage."

We have long published your letters in much the same spirit that, while driving, we listen to Rush Limbaugh; fortunately, we rarely drive. It's important to, at times, subject ones self to toxic matter to better understand it. In our experience, Black lives have only seem to matter in your letters when you could use them when trying to make some twisted point purporting to buttress your dubious political agenda. There's no reason to wallow in toxicity, though, hence our admittedly radical truncation.

You—a person of the white persuasion, we'd wager—while professing to "care" about Black people, have demonstrated here that you think you know—better than them—what's good for them.

We don't want to accuse you of professing white supremacist ideology, but that is the only term we can think of that adequately describes what you're doing right there.

The Editor

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I Was Wrong!

To the Editor:

In July of 2018 I wrote a letter to the Editor which stated, "What is almost 100 percent certain... is that Trump's businesses are kept afloat by laundering money for the Russian mafia, oligarchs and other crooks. This has been going on for years." I added, "The Russians are able to control Trump... by threatening to cut off the source of funds that keep him afloat..."

Trump's tax returns, released against his will, four years after his promise, show that he personally owes the banks \$400 million, due in the next few years. No bank would loan this kind of money to Trump (six bankruptcies) unless there were another guarantor to pay back the loan. In this case, Putin's Russia.

I was wrong because not only did Trump rely on Russian money laundering funds to keep his failing businesses solvent, he depended on them for outright paying back of his loans, keeping him in the lifestyle to which he is accustomed, allowing him to parade as the great businessman. No wonder he does anything Putin wants!

Vote Biden before Putin totally wrecks the U.S.A. through his tool.

Michael Frandzel

Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

We can't vouch for the accuracy of your assertions, but we agree that Trump's finances smell like a month-old sturgeon hidden in a storage locker.

The Editor

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Trump Would be 86ed From Kindergarten
To the Editor:

In every election I've voted in, be it local, a primary, presidential or non-presidential, I always see voters taking their children with them as they vote. They clearly want their children to know participating in the democratic process is important. Just as my parents did, I am sure many watch the Presidential debates with their children. I wonder how they can explain President Trump's behavior in Tuesday's debate? His constant interrupting, his arguing with the moderator, his total ignoring of the rules he had agreed to. His behavior would not be allowed in kindergarten and is no example of how any adult should behave.

If you approve of Trump's behavior, then your children will see this is the way they should behave if they want to be rich, powerful or a leader. That is your right, but keep them out of our public schools so the other children can become educated and civil.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Small Man in a Big Job
Dear Editor:

It takes a big man to represent this great country. A President worthy of office must stand for the justice, democracy, liberty, and diversity that have created our well-being. He must set an example to the world of the ideals that all can aspire to. He must also show the empathy and moral character we expect of our neighbors, friends, and ourselves.

Instead, a very small man is our President. Petty and vindictive, he cares only about making a transactional profit for himself, a bully who worries that any criticism underlines the

illegitimacy of his three-million-minority election.

Why would the designated leader of this great country kowtow toward dictators, and care more about making a buck off his properties, than attracting worldwide allies to lead toward a more healthy and equitable future?

His tax returns reveal the answer: this self-proclaimed businessman is in debt over his head, \$300 million or more, that must be paid back by 2022. Who does he owe?

His son, Eric, blurted out the answer while golfing with journalist James Dodson, "We have all the funding we need out of Russia."

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

"A Trump Guy Through and Through"
To the Editor:

In the New Hampshire primaries, more than 4,000 Democrats voted for Chris Sununu as a write-in. But Sununu is *not* the moderate they think he is.

"I'm a Trump guy through and through," Sununu boasts. He takes money and advice from the fossil fuel industry. His 77 vetoes diminish your rights, take money out of your pocket, and put you in danger from a runaway climate.

Many New Hampshire residents work multiple jobs in the struggle to pay bills on a minimum wage of \$7.25/hour. Sununu twice vetoed bills attempting a modest increase to \$10/hour.

We are in a pandemic, with no paid family and medical leave, which Sununu vetoed twice.

As we witness raging wildfires, flooding, droughts, Sununu vetoes bills that address climate change. "No" to energy efficiency; "no" to towns generating their own renewable ener-

gy—at a loss of hundreds of jobs, and millions of dollars to taxpayers, businesses, and towns.

Our safety? He vetoed the bill preventing unauthorized people from carrying firearms into schools; he vetoed a suicide prevention measure.

What of democracy itself? Sununu vetoed bills to address gerrymandering, and to streamline absentee voting.

We all work hard to choose the best people on our ballots, to legislate for us in Concord.

Our efforts are pointless if we vote for Sununu. Seventy-seven times, he undid the courageous work of our elected officials with his vetoes.

Please vote for Dan Feltes—he has worked tirelessly across the aisle for our health, safety, climate and economy. Learn more at <https://danfeltesnh.com>.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.
Susan:
Our Governor is a chip off the old block—hence the need to de-elect him.
The Editor

In a Word, Unfit
To the Editor:

Donald Trump is unfit to be president. This is not a new nor notable statement. He has amply demonstrated throughout his term that he has neither the intellect nor character for the job. He is a habitual liar who distorts facts to suit his narcissistic ends while valid criticism is deflected by citing crackpot conspiracy theories such as QAnon or the imaginary Deep State. His failures are many.

Trump has conducted a chaotic foreign policy that has alienated allies while displaying deference to authoritarian leaders. In the face of overwhelming intelligence, he denies that Russia continues to influence our election processes in his favor. He was impeached for an attempt to extort the president of the Ukraine for

his own political benefit. He betrayed our Kurdish allies to the Turks and Russians after they had endured over 10,000 casualties in the fight with ISIS.

Trump has falsely claimed credit for an economic expansion that was well underway when he took office. He and his Republican cronies enacted a tax cut that they claimed was for the benefit of the middle class; in reality, it provided 80 percent of its benefits to corporations and the rich. His muddled tariff policy has raised prices for American consumers while failing on his promise to repatriate manufacturing capacity.

At a time when thousands have taken to the streets to protest racial injustices, Trump has chosen to divide the nation with inflammatory rhetoric that has incited violence rather than healing.

When faced with crises of natural origin that are beyond his ability to explain away with a conspiracy theory, Trump's inadequacies have been laid bare. Tragically, the president lied about the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic while presiding over an incompetent effort to contain the virus. The result has been thousands of unnecessary American deaths accompanied by Depression levels of unemployment. He has largely been silent regarding the climate change induced forest fires and hurricanes that have ravaged the American west and south.

Trump's ineptitude and immorality is beyond question. Yet he would not have been able to carry out this carnage without the sycophancy of Republican legislators. They have acted more like a cult supporting their master rather than a political party in a democracy. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the Republican Senate's hypocritical support for filling the Ginsburg vacancy on the Supreme Court prior to the election; in 2016, the Republican-controlled senate stonewalled Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland using the rationale that new Supreme Court judges should not be confirmed in an election year.

In a healthy democracy, it is natural

for opposing political parties to have policy differences. These differences provide the basis for discussion, debate and good faith bargaining but they should always be subservient to the promotion of civic virtue and the common good. When the common good is superseded by attention to the agenda of a self-aggrandizing, narcissistic and inept leader such as Donald Trump or to the mere preservation of the power of the Republican party, democracy is threatened. For this reason, both Donald Trump and his Republican sycophants must be removed from office in November.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:
You're absolutely right. Trump's literal American carnage could not have happened without the connivance of the Republican Party. Unfortunately, historical precedent suggests they'll never be held accountable, even if there's a full Democratic sweep.
The Editor

Remembrance of Republicans Past
Dear Editor:

Bear with me while I reminisce in ancient times, "senior moments" bestowed to aging citizens. Share with me, if you will, please, and believe me, there was once a Republican Party, and a commonwealth of practicing church families, that would not have conceded to Donald Trump the proverbial time of day.

Entire generations of Americans believed (as Gandhi surmised as gospel), that "the outward behavior of a man is at once the sign and proof of the inner state." Granted, politics strange bedfellows make. However, it is entirely incongruous that any thinking American (much less citizens even marginally inspired to practice Christian teachings) will find compatibility with Donald Trump.

Past generations clearly understood mankind's flawed human condition and imperfections. The purpose was to try and improve, not to strive for unat-

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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Whatever happened to our sense of right and wrong?

by Jean Stimmell

When I was young, success was not being rich but being a person of good repute: honest, hard-working, and willing to help others. We were taught stories in school about how presidents should be honest and of good character: stories about how George Washington confessed about cutting down the cherry tree and Abe Lincoln walking 3 miles at night to return 6 cents he had overcharged a customer. Also, we held religious stories in common, like how it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven. Yet now we have elected a rich man as our President, an inveterate liar and serial adulterer, who even stiffed the contractors who built his hotels and casinos. Nevertheless, somehow, he is revered by much of working-class America and applauded by religious conservatives. This decline in morality is the result of many factors. Two immediately come to mind. The first is moral relativism, advocating an “anything goes” attitude, personified by Trump and his supporters. Inter-

estingly, back in the 1960s, it was the conservatives who were blaming liberals in our universities for promoting such decadence. However, those college professors were not advocating that facts don’t matter. What they were saying is that when you look closely at a text or a society, it soon becomes apparent that the truth people see depends on where they stand in society. A current situation that illustrates this divide is Black Life Matters protesters versus the police: Each side makes a different claim on what is true. Of course, 1960s hippies have always been blamed for pursuing an “anything goes” morality. But one could make a strong case that we were experimenting, searching for a new caring, person-centered ethics, as opposed to the existing patriarchal model that dropped atomic bombs on Japan and killed millions of peasants in Vietnam. Another signal event that helped usher in our moral decline happened 50 years ago this month when Milton Friedman, a leading economist, wrote a seminal essay that the *New York Times Magazine* called the “free

market manifesto that changed the world.”¹ In essence, he said forget about morality and ethics. In no uncertain terms, he asserted that business should not concern itself with the welfare of its workers or society at large; its sole responsibility is to make money. His call to arms spread like a virus. Spurred on, in part, by his manifesto, the 1980s became known as the “Decade of Greed,” personifying avarice and an anything-goes attitude, according to the *National Review*.² Meanwhile, our society continued to become more secular, with fewer people going to church. I don’t know if that is a lagging or leading indicator. The contagion has now spread until it is the only game in town. Everything has become transactional. Forget the Golden Rule: if a transaction is profitable to a company or individual, go for it, no matter what the consequences to others. From this brief history, it is evident that Trump is not the cause of our downfall, but a symptom of a distressing trend. I’ve been mulling what has gone wrong and what can be done to reverse the trend. Re-

trieved from dusty history, I came across a remedy: *The Sovereignty of the Good*, by Iris Murdoch, first published in 1970. Murdoch, a novelist and moral philosopher who recently died at the age of 100, fought against cultural relativism. She looked back in time to her mentor, Plato, who believed in ultimate reality—but thought most people could only access it in low resolution, as shadows on the wall. This transcendental reality, Murdoch says, is The Good, something we are all familiar with “by instinct...[t]he ordinary person understands some things are better than others.”³ But to fully appreciate the good, she agreed with Plato: one must work at it, as you do with any other endeavor. For example, to become good at mathematics: you must be introduced to the principles and practice them. All our religions recognize this need for practice. Murdoch writes there is “a place both inside and outside religion for contemplating the good, not just by dedicated experts but by ordinary people.”⁴ The most important thing we must do is to get outside our anxiety-ridden minds: “to look right

away from self towards a distant transcendent perfection, a source of uncontaminated energy, a source of new and quite undreamt-of virtue.” “Our ability to act well when the time comes,” she says, “depends partly, perhaps largely, upon the quality of our habitual objects of attention.” For this reason, we should meditate, with a “just and loving gaze,” upon those things that appear to be good and beautiful.⁵ For the sake of my soul, crying out from the cauldron of incivility in which we find ourselves, I have pledged to follow Iris Murdoch toward her vision of the good. 1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/13/business/dealbook/milton-friedman-essay-anniversary.html> 2 <https://www.nationalreview.com/2004/06/decade-greed-richard-mckenzie/> 3 Murdoch, Iris. *The Sovereignty of Good (Routledge Great Minds) (p. 95). Taylor and Francis. Kindle Edition.* 4 *Ibid.* p. 99 5 <https://cburrell.wordpress.com/2011/04/29/murdoch-the-sovereignty-of-good/>

from page six

Put Out Water for the Birds
Dear Editor:
Outdoors yesterday I saw one bird, then a second (sparrow, chickadee) land on my dog’s water dish rim and take a drink, a long one. Earlier this week a traveling-through hummingbird came down out of the sky and refueled at my hummingbird feeder that I keep ready, though my regulars have migrated away. Now migrating hummers might stop briefly. Makes me want to ask - if you are able to do this, put water out for the birds. Now I’m keeping my three dog waters high (so small birds can perch on the rim and reach the water, that height of water needed). I also have rimmed dinner plates of water on the ground for bees. I’ve seen them come to drink. We are in drought, and it’s not necessary to own a bird-bath. Put out water for

these creatures that brighten our days. (In the case of bees, pollinate our garden crops and field crops.) Saint Francis can’t do his work without our helping hands.
Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.
—==—
“The watchword is only one, categorical and challenging for everyone. It already flies across and lights the hearts from the Alps to the Indian Ocean: Winning! And we will win, in order to finally give a long period of peace with justice to Italy, to Europe, to the world.”
— Benito Mussolini (1883 – 1945)
declaring war, June 10, 1940
—==—
“That awful power, the public opinion of a nation, is created in America by a horde of ignorant, self-complacent simpletons who failed at ditching and shoe-making and fetched up in journalism on their way to the poorhouse.”
— Mark Twain

Trump judges require that ex-felons pay to vote

by Jim Hightower
How nasty is the Republican Party’s massive campaign to thwart democracy? Ask the good people of Florida. This was one of only three states that permanently took away the voting rights of felons—who’d completed their punishment. In 2018, though, a whopping 65 percent of Floridians voted for a state Constitutional amendment that finally struck this malicious bit of legal ugliness from the books, thus restoring the political personhood of about a million people who’d served their time. But, led by Ron DeSantis, Florida’s right-wing goose of a Governor, the GOP demanded that an appeals court of hyper-partisan federal judges overrule 2018’s landmark vote by

the people and slam the door once more on the rights of discharged felons. They’re not entitled to vote, squawked these vindictive ballot suppressors, unless and until they’ve paid off the full amount of court costs and fees they were assessed. Money, asserted Republican leaders, must trump social justice, human decency, and political rights for these mostly indigent people who’re unable to pony up a thousand bucks or so. Even if ex-felons are regularly making payments to clear the debt—tough luck say the Republican repressors, no vote until every penny is paid. It’s a flagrant case of rigging the system to steal the votes of a low-income constituency generally inclined to support Democratic policies and candidates. It also amounts to an unconstitutional poll tax, made

more intolerable by applying it to one class of citizens (largely people of color) specifically to disenfranchise them. The court’s six-judge Republican majority (five appointed by Trump) cynically defied the U.S. Constitution and the Florida electorate just weeks before November’s presidential election, effectively incarcerating some 774,000 potential voters in a partisan debtor’s prison. Yet, the people’s battle for justice goes on—to say connected, go to Florida Rights Restoration Coalition: FloridaRRC.com. —==—
Jim Hightower writes *The Hightower Lowdown*, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America’s ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

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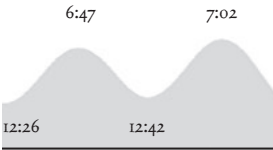
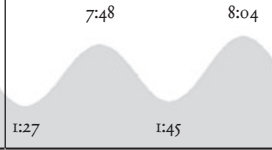
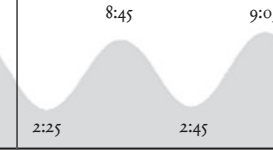
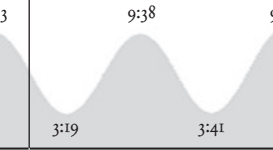
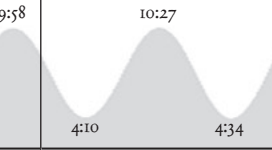
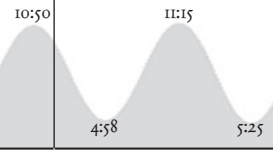
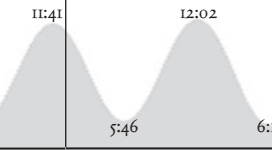
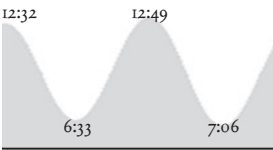
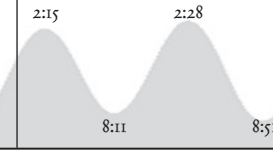
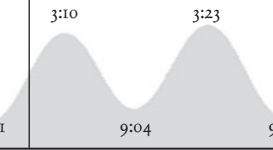
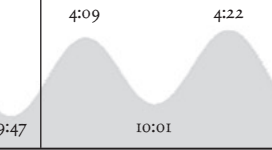
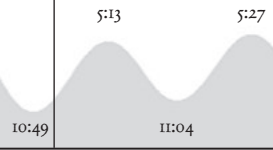
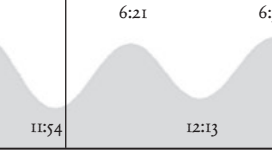
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Admiral Fowle’s Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)						
Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua’s ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of Badger’s Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.						
Sunday, October 11	Monday, October 12	Tuesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15	Friday, October 16	Saturday, October 17
2006—Nine years after she was hit by a lampost knocked over by a Macy’s parade balloon, Kathleen Caronna’s Manhattan apartment burns after being struck by Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle’s Cirrus airplane. 2003—Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, 33, gives Yankee coach Don Zimmer a shove, knocking the 72-year old Zimmer to the ground. 2002—The U.S. Senate approves the error made yesterday by the House. 1991—Anita Hill testifies before Congress that she was sexually harassed by her former boss, Supreme Court Justice-to-be Clarence Thomas. 1973—Henry Kissinger tells Brent Scowcroft that President Nixon can’t take a call from the British Prime Minister because he’s too “loaded.” 1963—NSAM 263 lays out JFK’s (secret) plan: get out of Vietnam. Six weeks later he and his plan are dead. 1960—At the podium, in the UN, Nikita Khrushchev drives his point home with a shoe. 1954—The French driven out, the Viet Minh take over North Vietnam. 1945—Mao’s Red Army goes to war against Chiang Kai-Shek’s kleptocracy. 1937—Physicians warn the AMA that Massengil’s new miracle drug “Elixir Sulfanilamide” is causing their patients to die in agony. 1809—At Grinder’s Stand, a tavern, Meriwether Lewis cuts his wrists and shoots himself twice—according to the official version of events.	1972—A race riot aboard the <i>U.S.S. Kitty Hawk</i> injures 47. 1970—Lieut. William Calley is court-martialled for 102 murders. 1968—Active-duty Navy nurse Susan Schnall, in uniform, drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto five military bases in San Francisco Bay. 1964—JFK’s very close friend Mary Pinchot Meyer is murdered under the murkiest of circumstances. 1964—Suspected by CIA counter-intel chief James Jesus Angleton of being a spy, Canadian diplomat John Watkins is interrogated to death in a Montreal hotel room. 1961—The FBI launches a “Socialist Worker Disruption Program.” 1960—Otoya Yamaguchi, 17, a right-winger, runs a sword through Inejiro Asanuma, leader of the Socialists, during a televised debate. 1945—Corporal Desmond Doss, a medic and conscientious objector, becomes the first non-combatant to receive the Medal of Honor. 1923—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen take a rally in Portland, Maine. 1920—Rev. J. Holmes is arrested in Mt. Vernon, N.Y, for publicly reading the Constitution without a permit. 1917—Passchendaele begins: 13,000 Allied casualties, no advance. 1492—A lost European begins oppressing native Americans. 1131—A black pig darts from a Paris dung heap and trips a horse, killing the rider: King Philip of France, 15.	2004—Andrea Mackris sues her ex-boss, Fox’s Bill O’Reilly, for making lewd phone calls. Two weeks later O’Reilly pays her \$9M to shut up. 2004—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, “Gosh, I don’t think I ever said I’m not worried about Osama bin Laden. That’s kind of one of those exaggerations,” directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he’s “not that much concerned about him.” 1991—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about Clarence Thomas. 1988—Experts call the Shroud of Turin a 13th century fake. 1972—Seventy-five years after the land for it was allocated, the Burns Paiute Indian reservation in Oregon is created. 1972—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary improvisation. 1967—Two Marines die and 21 are wounded when a Marine pilot accidentally bombs them at Con Thien. 1925—Birth of Lenny Bruce. 1812—U.S. Gen. Van Rensselaer sends his regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren’t shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade. 1660—Major General Thomas Harrison goes to his hanging, drawing, and quartering “looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition,” according to diarist Samuel Pepys.	2018—RIP, Emilio V. Maddaloni. 2011—Weeks after a U.S. drone smites his dad, a U.S. citizen in Yemen, Abdulrahman Anwar al-Awlaki, also a U.S. citizen, meets the same fate. Neither got a trial. 2001—Delta Flight 458 is diverted to Charlotte after two praying Orthodox Jews are mistaken for terrorists. 1984—Having fired talk show Barker Morton Downey Jr., KFBK in Sacramento replaces him with someone even worse: Rush Limbaugh. 1968—The Pentagon orders 24,000 troops back to Vietnam for an involuntary second tour. 1968—At the Presidio stockade, 27 soldiers are arrested for mutiny. 1962—A U-2 over Cuba detects ballistic missile sites being built. 1947—Broken ribs be damned: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier. 1943—Prisoners of Sobibor revolt, killing officers and guards. Half the 600 prisoners escape under fire. 1919—Forbidden by their boss to discuss their pay at <i>Vanity Fair</i>, Robert Benchley and Dorothy Parker don signs stating their salaries. 1914—Its captain whoring ashore, its crew below with girls of their own, the Russian cruiser <i>Zhemchug</i> is sunk in Penang harbor by a German cruiser. 1912—William Schranck, who later says, “any man looking for a third term ought to be shot,” plugs Teddy Roosevelt in the chest. TR, though bleeding, delivers his speech.	2008—The Dow loses 7.8 percent of its value in its 2nd worst day ever. 2004—Jon Stewart appears on CNN’s “Crossfire” and begs Tucker Carlson to “stop hurting America.” Less than 90 days later CNN announces the show is over. 1997—On Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, RAF pilot Andy Green breaks the sound barrier in a jet-driven, 110,000 horsepower car. 1969—In the U.S., two million march in the first Vietnam Moratorium. A demo in Boston draws 100,000. 1966—Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale form the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. 1965—David Miller becomes the first American to publicly burn his draft card in Vietnam War protest. 1963—The FBI issues a racist “report” claiming commies were influencing Martin Luther King, Jr. It’s all lies. 1959—A nuke-laden B-52 and a fuel-laden KC-135 collide over Kentucky, but America’s luck holds. 1923—The Senate begins investigating Albert Fall, the suddenly-prosperous Interior Secretary. Fall, a Republican, leased the Navy’s Teapot Dome oilfield to a friend. 1910—Melvin Vaniman, aboard the airship <i>America</i>, transmits the first in-flight radio message: “Roy, come and get this goddamn cat.” 1883—The Supreme Court guts the Civil Rights Act of 1875, ushering in the era of the Jim Crow South.	2002—George W.[MD] Bush signs the law he demanded giving him permission to start an unprovoked war. 1973—Fred and Donald Trump are sued by the Justice Dept. for discriminating against minority renters. Their lawyer, Roy Cohn, countersues, claiming the victims are the Trumps. 1973—Henry Kissinger gets the Nobel Peace Prize; Tom Lehrer declares political satire obsolete. 1972—Majority Leader Hale Boggs [D-La.], Rep. Nick Begich [D-Alaska], aide R. Brown, and pilot D. Jonz vanish while flying over Alaska. 1968—Tommie Smith and John Carlos, Mexico City Olympic winners, raise fists in the Black Power salute. 1962—At breakfast, President John F. Kennedy finds he’s got a Cuban Missile Crisis on his plate. 1946—Inept Army Master Sergeant John C. Woods hangs ten Nazis at Nuremberg. Heads bash the trap; two choke for 14 minutes, Ribbentrop, 24. 1920—In N.Y.C., 30,000 Great War vets march, demanding a bonus. 1859—John Brown and 18 others, both Black and white, capture the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va. 1814—Ruptured vats in a London brewery release 323,346 gallons of beer. Many guzzle, seven drown. 1715—Daniel Fowle is baptized at First Church in Boston. 1660—John Cooke, King Charles I’s prosecutor (treason, 1649), is drawn and quartered under Charles II.	2004—In game four of the ALCS, 9th inning, Dave Roberts steals 2nd, then scores on Bill Mueller’s single. 1999—Lissa Roche commits suicide after confessing she had a 19-year affair with her father-in-law, George Roche III, the president of Hillsdale College, “the most conservative college in America.” 1973—OPEC turns off the oil tap. 1967—Lt. Col. Terry Allen Jr. leads two companies of the 28th Infantry, outnumbered 10 to 1, into a VC ambush at Ong Thanh. Casualties exceed 92 percent, 64 are KIA; the U.S. Army declares it a victory. 1960—The sit-in movement pays off big: several chain stores with locations in 10 southern states desegregate 150 lunch counters in 112 cities. 1956—“The only way to win the next World War,” says Ike, “is to prevent it.” 1927—Oil mogul Harry F. Sinclair goes on trial over Teapot Dome. Two weeks later it’s revealed he’s hired detectives to shadow each juror. 1894—On orders from Ohio National Guard Col. Alonzo B. Coit, Guardsmen fire out, through the closed doors of the Fayette County Court House, at a mob intent on lynching a Black man accused of rape. Five die, 20 are wounded; the bullet-riddled doors remain in place. 1777—Burgoyne, undone by Benedict Arnold at Bemis Heights, surrenders at Saratoga; the victory inspires the French to back the Americans.
						
Sunday, October 18	Monday, October 19	Tuesday, October 20	Wednesday, October 21	Thursday, October 22	Friday, October 23	Saturday, October 24
2017—U.S. President Donald Trump signs a check for \$35,000 to repay his lawyer for buying the silence of a porn star with whom he had an affair. 2014—Thousands of college-age cretins, urged on by social media company Finnarage, set fires, throw billiard balls, and overturn cars, putting an end to the Keene Pumpkin Festival. 2011—Ohioan Terry Thompson releases his menagerie of 56 exotic animals, including lions, leopards, and tigers, then kills himself. 2004—In game four of the ALCS, 12th inning, Big Papi puts the Yankees out of their misery and brings joy to the World Series. 2003—The president of Bolivia is driven out of office (and country) by disgruntled peasants tired of being sold out to international capitalists. 1979—“The standard of living of the average American has to decline,” says well-fed Fed Chair Paul Volcker. 1898—The U.S. colonizes Puerto Rico—benevolently, of course. 1891—On the basis of false rumors and a dubious identification, a mob of 1,000 lynches Joe Coe, a married Black man with two children, as 12 Omaha, Neb. cops just watch. 1775—Capt. Henry Mowat destroys Falmouth [now Portland, Maine] with an incendiary bombardment. Result: collateral damage to Mowat’s career and British hegemony. 1648—Boston shoemakers form America’s first labor organization.	2005—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) wins \$853,492 in the Powerball lottery. A dying woman whose real estate deposit he has refused to return receives exactly none of it. 2005—Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity and Bushes. 2000—George W.[MD] Bush says at the Al Smith Dinner, “This is an impressive crowd, the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite. I call you my base.” 1998—Shortly before his likely re-election, Tennessee Senator Tommy Burks [D] is murdered by his middle-name-changing opponent, Byron Low Tax Looper [R]. 1987—Computers say stocks are too damn high—the Dow drops 22 pct. 1982—Automaker J. DeLorean is arrested with 59 lbs. of coke. 1972—Philippine police shoot and kill Kinshichi Kozuka, Japan’s penultimate WWII holdout. 1969—Bribe-accepting Veep “Ted” Agnew denounces “an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals.” 1936—Watertown, Mass. becomes the first town to fingerprint its high school students. 1935—At the AFL convention in Atlantic City, UBC boss “Big Bill” Hutcheson calls UMW chief John L. Lewis a “bastard.” Lewis leaps onstage, punches “Big Bill” in the face, re-lights his cigar, and sits back down.	2011—Brotherly Leader Muammar Ghadaffi is rather unceremoniously dispatched by Libyan rebels. 2005—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) nixes an increase in Federal home heating aid for the poor. 1990—In 22 cities, Americans protest the impending Gulf War. 1983—The Feds recognize the Mashantucket Pequots, paving the way for a gargantuan casino. 1973—After A.G. Eliot Richardson and Deputy A.G. William Ruckelshaus refuse on principle to comply with President Nixon’s order to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, Solicitor General Robert Bork, who is not so encumbered, complies. 1967—Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin shoot 24 feet of film purporting to show a Sasquatch walking along a streambed in northern California. 1947—HUAC opens hearings on commie influence in Hollywood; two big rats: R. Reagan & W. Disney. 1944—Two natural gas tanks explode in Cleveland with 1/6th of the force of the Hiroshima bomb, killing 130. 1935—The Red Army’s 6,000 mile “Long March” ends. 1930—William Kogut, while incarcerated on Death Row at San Quentin, kills himself with a pipe bomb made from playing cards. 1842—Commodore Thomas Jones, USN, attacks Monterey in the mistaken belief that the U.S. is at war with Mexico. He then apologizes.	1975—In the 12th inning, New Hampshire’s own Carlton Fisk waves the ball fair, and the Red Sox win Game 6 of the World Series. 1967—Yuppies, Diggers, Hippies, &c., fail to levitate the Pentagon. 1966—A mountain of mine waste collapses onto a school in Wales, killing 28 adults and 116 children. 1965—Lyndon Johnson flashes his gall bladder scar for photographers. 1957—Special Forces Capt. Harry Cramer becomes the 2nd American killed by hostile action in Vietnam. His death is falsely listed as accidental. 1954—Indiana’s Boxing Commission says boxers and wrestlers must swear an oath they’re not Commies before they can fight in the Hoosier State. 1874—Birth of Charles Ives. 1861—Colonel Edward D. Baker, leading his brigade at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff, becomes the first and last U.S. Senator [R-Ore.], killed in battle. 1837—Osceola and 81 other Seminoles are captured and imprisoned at Ft. Payton, Fla. by U.S. troops using a false flag of truce. 1835—William Lloyd Garrison is paraded through the streets of Boston with a rope around his neck for saying “all men are created equal.” 1797—After two failures, the <i>U.S.S. Constitution</i> is launched in Boston. 1556—Poet, playwright, satirist, and blackmailer Pietro Aretino—“the Scourge of Princes”—laughs himself to death.	1987—At Yoken’s, noted buffoon Donald Trump speaks before a credulous Portsmouth Rotary Club. 1979—With an OK from Jimmy Carter, the Shah of Iran enters the U.S. for medical treatment, triggering chaos. 1968—To improve the odds of his re-election, Richard Nixon tells H.R. Haldeman to “monkey wrench” negotiations to end the Vietnam War. 1967—KGB agent Manfred Rammingier steals a Sidewinder missile from Neuburg AFB, takes it off-base in a wheelbarrow, drives away with it sticking out the back of his Mercedes, and mails it, dismantled, to Moscow. 1963—Fed up with accurate reporting, JFK asks “Punch” Sulzberger to assign <i>Times</i>’ David Halberstam anywhere but Vietnam. It doesn’t work. 1962—SAC goes to DEFCON 2 as JFK blockades Cuba. 1946—Despite a confession, a white jury in Mississippi finds five white men not guilty of beating Leon McAttee, who’s Black, to death. 1913—A dynamite blast, detonated in violation of safety rules, kills 265 at a Phelps Dodge mine in Dawson, N.M. 1909—A judge tells striking female garment workers in New York, “You are on strike against God.” 1868—James M. Hinds [R-Mo.] is shotgunned in the back, becoming the U.S.’s first assassinated Congressman. No charges are filed against the killer, George Clark, Secretary of the Monroe County Democratic Party.	2015—James Comey says criticism of the police is responsible for the rise of violent crime in cities. He offers no evidence for this assertion. 2015—Senator Ted Cruz [R-Texas] warns “one more liberal justice and they begin sandblasting and bulldozing veterans memorials.” 2013—Chancellor Angela Merkel calls the White House to complain about the NSA tapping her phone. 2001—Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) introduces the senseless PATRIOT Act, & Justice official James Yoo writes a memo saying the President need not obey the law. 1998—Life being sacred, anti-abortion fanatic James C. Kopp murders Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, N.Y. 1987—Robert Bork gets borked. 1983—Suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon, on Ronald Reagan’s watch. 1962—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down. 1955—In a South Vietnamese referendum with 108% participation, Ngo Dinh Diem wins with 98.9%. 1954—Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam, by-passing the French. 1775—The Continental Congress bars Blacks from the Army. 425—Valentinian III becomes Emperor of the Western Roman Empire; he’s six, but it takes 30 years to fall.	2012—George W.[MD] Bush speaks at a Houston fundraiser for troops wounded following his orders. His fee: \$100,000. 2008—America’s markets outperform the rest of the world, having lost only 3.5% of their value in one day. 2001—The U.S. House passes the PATRIOT Act without reading it. 1983—U.S. military aircraft, using old maps, bomb Richmond Hill Insane Asylum in Grenada, killing 16. 1962—Soviet ships reach the U.S. quarantine line off Cuba. They don’t cross it, so we don’t nuke the USSR. A Soviet satellite explodes the same day. NORAD suspects an ICBM attack; but, again, nobody pushes The Button. 1960—One wrongly-set switch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome prematurely ignites the second stage of a Soviet R-16 ICBM; 100 die. 1947—A badly-designed heater sets a DC-6 on fire near Bryce Canyon, Utah. Passengers and crew jettison baggage to no avail; 52 perish. 1930—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on the ten-year career of George “The Man in the Green Hat” Cassidy, who bootlegged out of House and Senate office buildings. 1929—The irrational exuberance of the 1920’s stock market undergoes a correction on “Black Thursday.” 1901—General “Hell-Roaring Jake” Smith tells Marines at Samar, “burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me.”
						



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